United Nations DP/2018/9

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2018

Contents

First regular session 2018
(22 - 26 January 2018, New York)

Number		*Page*
2018/1	UNDP Independent Evaluation Office workplan, 2018-2021	2
2018/2	UNFPA quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2018-2021	2
2018/3	Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2016	3
2018/4	Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2018	4

2018/1
UNDP Independent Evaluation Office workplan, 2018-2021

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office workplan for 2018-2021 (DP/2018/4);

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of evaluation as an essential tool for learning and accountability, and urges UNDP to ensure that adequate resources are provided for evaluation, in compliance with the evaluation policy as endorsed in decision 2016/17 approving the UNDP Evaluation Policy, and in keeping with expectations set out in the UNDP integrated resources plan and integrated budget estimates, 2018-2021 (DP/2017/39);

3. *Notes* the decision of the Independent Evaluation Office to change its procedures for evaluating UNDP country programming, in order to achieve full evaluation coverage of all country programmes prior to the Board's consideration of new country programme documents, as guided by decision 2015/8;

4. *Takes note* of the Independent Evaluation Office review of the quality assessment of 2016 decentralized evaluations and encourages UNDP to continue ensuring improvement in the quality of decentralized evaluations;

5. *Acknowledges* the corporate/thematic evaluations that the Independent Evaluation Office has proposed to carry out during this four-year period, and views them to be relevant to UNDP objectives and programming under the new Strategic Plan;

6. *Requests* that UNDP and the Independent Evaluation Office seek out opportunities with other United Nations agencies for joint evaluations of joint programming, as well as the common chapter of the Strategic Plan;

7. *Looks forward* to an update from the Independent Evaluation Office on any potential implications for UNDP regarding the United Nations development system evaluation function, including through the annual report on evaluation;

8. *Decides* to approve the workplan of the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office for 2018-2021.

26 January 2018

2018/2
UNFPA quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2018-2021

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the relevance and utility of the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2018-2021 (DP/FPA/2018/1);

2. *Acknowledges* the transparent and participatory process undertaken in developing the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2018-2021;

3. *Affirms* the importance of evaluation as an essential tool for learning and accountability, and urges UNFPA to ensure that adequate resources are provided for evaluation, in line with the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2018-2021 and in compliance with the evaluation policy as endorsed in decision 2013/21 approving the UNFPA Evaluation Policy;

4. *Encourages* UNFPA management to work with the Evaluation Office to continue its efforts to strengthen the implementation rate and coverage of decentralized evaluations and to use the evaluations as learning and knowledge management tools to enhance future programmes;

5. *Requests* that UNFPA and the Evaluation Office seek out opportunities with other United Nations agencies for joint evaluations of joint programming as well as the common chapter of the strategic plan;

6. *Looks forward* to an update from the Evaluation Office on any potential implications for UNFPA regarding the United Nations development system evaluation function, including through the annual report on evaluation;

7. *Approves* the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2018-2021.

26 January 2018

2018/3
Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2016

The Executive Board

With regard to UNDP:

1. *Takes note* of the report (DP/2018/7) on the actions taken by UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the further actions planned to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2016;

2. *Notes* the unqualified audit opinions issued by the Board of Auditors for 2016;

3. *Also notes* the progress made by UNDP and UNCDF in addressing the top seven audit-related priorities in 2016-2017;

4. *Encourages* UNDP to make further efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations and in particular to strengthen efforts to tackle recurring recommendations;

5. *Welcomes* continued efforts by UNDP to strengthen the quality of programme design, management and oversight, and requests UNDP to take steps to strengthen implementation of risk management practices at all levels;

6. *Encourages* UNDP to continue its efforts to enhance oversight and management of implementing partners, ensuring policy and assurance requirements are appropriately implemented across the organization, and that compliance is monitored;

7. *Further encourages* UNDP to continue its efforts to prevent and uncover procurement irregularities and other fraudulent practices and to improve actions for recovery of funds, and underscores the importance of protecting whistle-blowers and ensuring that whistle-blower protections are both robust and well-known;

8. *Notes* the relevance of the priority improvement areas identified in the report of the Board of Auditors for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 as well as the development of the working plan of engagement with the Board in this regard;

9. *Requests* UNDP to address in the upcoming review of the UNDP Policy against Fraud and Other Corrupt Practices the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors to thoroughly review the underlying circumstances that led to the cases of

fraud, to identify the possible gaps and to develop a comprehensive anti-fraud strategy to minimize fraud risks and associated loss;

10. *Supports* ongoing UNDP and UNCDF management efforts in addressing and implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2016;

With regard to UNFPA:

11. *Takes note* of the report (DP/FPA/2018/2) on the actions taken by UNFPA and the further measures planned by the organization to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2016;

12. *Notes* the audit opinion by the Board of Auditors that UNFPA financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of UNFPA as at 31 December 2016 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);

13. *Also notes* the progress made by UNFPA in addressing prior year's recommendations and support ongoing management efforts in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2016;

14. *Encourages* UNFPA to make further efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations, and in particular to strengthen efforts to tackle recurring recommendations;

15. *Also encourages* UNFPA to continue its efforts to enhance oversight and management of implementing partners, ensuring policy and assurance requirements are appropriately implemented across the organization, and that compliance is monitored;

16. *Further encourages* UNFPA to continue to strengthen its approach to procurement, supply chain and inventory management in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Auditors;

With regard to UNOPS:

17. *Takes note* of the report (DP/OPS/2018/1) on the progress in the implementation of the various recommendations made for the year ended 31 December 2016 and the efforts currently in progress to ensure that the remaining recommendations are successfully implemented;

18. *Acknowledges* that due to the fact that recommendations were issued to UNOPS towards the end of July 2017 and that many of them require long-term attention, UNOPS will need to work beyond the financial year 2017 to implement them successfully.

26 January 2018

2018/4
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2018

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2018, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2018:

President: H.E. Mr. Jagdish D. Koonjul (Mauritius)
Vice-President: H.E. Mr. Chull-joo Park (Republic of Korea)
Vice-President: H.E. Ms. Besiana Kadare (Albania)
Vice-President: Mr. Tumasie Blair (Antigua and Barbuda)
Vice-President: Mr. Dominique Favre (Switzerland)

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for its first regular session 2018 (DP/2018/L.1);

Approved the reports of the second regular session 2017 (DP/2018/1) and special session 2017 (DP/2018/2);

Adopted the annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2018 (DP/2018/CRP.1);

Approved the tentative workplan for the annual session 2018;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2018:

Annual session: 4 to 8 June 2018
Second regular session: 4 to 7 September 2018.

UNDP segment

Item 2
UNDP country programmes and related matters

Approved the regional programme documents for the period 2018-2021 for Africa (DP/RPD/RBA/3), Asia and the Pacific (DP/RPD/RAP/3), Arab States (DP/RPD/RAS/4), Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (DP/RPD/REC/4) and Latin America and the Caribbean (DP/RPD/RLA/3 and Corr.1);

Approved the following UNDP country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Africa: Burkina Faso (DP/DCP/BFA/3 and Corr.1); Cabo Verde (common country programme, DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF/CCPD/2018/CPV/1); Gabon (DP/DCP/GAB/3); Ghana (DP/DCP/GHA/3); Mauritania (DP/DCP/MRT/3);

Asia and the Pacific: Myanmar (DP/DCP/MMR/2); Pakistan (DP/DCP/PAK/2)

Arab States: Djibouti (DP/DCP/DJI/3); Egypt (DP/DCP/EGY/3); Jordan (DP/DCP/JOR/3); Somalia (DP/DCP/SOM/3);

Item 3
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2018/1 on the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office workplan, 2018-2021;

Item 4
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Took note of the UNCDF strategic framework, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/5);

Item 5
United Nations Volunteers

Took note of the United Nations Volunteers programme strategic framework, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/6);

UNFPA segment

Item 6
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following UNFPA country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Central African Republic (DP/FPA/CPD/CAF/8); Djibouti (DP/FPA/CPD/DJI/5); Egypt (DP/FPA/CPD/EGY/10); Ghana (DP/FPA/CPD/GHA/7); Jordan (DP/FPA/CPD/JOR/9); Mauritania (DP/FPA/CPD/MRT/8);

Approved the common country programme for Cabo Verde (DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF/CCPD/2018/CPV/1);

Item 7
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2018/2 on the UNFPA quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2018-2021;

UNOPS segment

Item 8
United Nations Office for Project Services

Heard the UNOPS Executive Director give a statement;

Joint segment

Item 9
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Adopted decision 2018/3 on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, related to the following reports: UNDP and UNCDF: Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2016 (DP/2018/7); UNFPA: Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2016: Status of implementation of recommendations (DP/FPA/2018/2); and UNOPS: Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2016 (DP/OPS/2018/1);

Item 10
Other matters

Also held the following briefings and informal consultations:

Joint briefing of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women on cost recovery;

UNDP

UNDP briefing on cost recovery;

UNFPA

UNFPA informal briefing on change management.

TENTATIVE WORKPLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
ANNUAL SESSION 2018
(4 - 8 June 2018, New York)

Day/Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Friday, 1 June	10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 to 6 p.m.		JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-WOMEN AND WFP
Monday, 4 June	10 - 10:30 a.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session • Adoption of the report of the first regular session 2018
	10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.		**UNOPS SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		14	UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES • Statement by the executive director • Annual report of the Executive Director
	12 – 1 p.m.		**UNFPA SEGMENT**
		13	REVISED UNFPA BUDGET, 2018-2021, INCLUDING CHANGE MANAGEMENT • Consultation on the revised UNFPA budget, 2018-2021, including change management
	3 - 4 p.m.	13	REVISED UNFPA BUDGET, 2018-2021, INCLUDING CHANGE MANAGEMENT • Consultation on the revised UNFPA budget, 2018-2021, including change management
	4 - 6 p.m.		**JOINT SEGMENT**
		15	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS • Report on cost recovery
Tuesday, 5 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNFPA SEGMENT (cont'd)** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		10	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • Cumulative review of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017 • Statistical and financial review, 2017 • UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2017
	3 – 4:30 p.m.	10	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (cont'd)
	4:30 - 5:45 p.m.	11	UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
		12	EVALUATION • Annual report of the UNFPA Evaluation Office 2017 and management response
	5:45 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*

Wednesday, 6 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR
		2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR • Report of the Administrator on results for 2017 and progress on the strategic plan, 2018-2021 • UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2017 • Statistical annex • Working plan for engagement with the Executive Board (follow-up to decisions 2017/30 and 2017/31)
	3 – 5:30 p.m.	2	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR (cont'd)
		3	GENDER EQUALITY IN UNDP • UNDP gender equality strategy, 2018-2021
	5:30 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Thursday, 7 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		4	SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION • Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, 2018-2021
		5	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT • Update on Human Development Report consultations (GA resolution 57/264)
	3 – 5:30 p.m.	6	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
		7	EVALUATION • Annual report on evaluation and management response • Status of implementation of the Independent Evaluation Office recommendations
	5:30 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Friday, 8 June	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		8	UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND • Report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2017
		9	UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS • United Nations Volunteers: Report of the Administrator

	3 – 6 p.m.		**JOINT SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		16	INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT • Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations and management responses
		17	REPORTS OF THE ETHICS OFFICES OF UNDP, UNFPA AND UNOPS • Reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities for 2017 and management responses
		18	FIELD VISITS • Reports on field visits
		19	OTHER MATTERS • Adoption of decisions
		1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2018 • Closing of the session